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INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Beginning in November, Northern States Power Company, a Wisconsin Corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., will begin testing an innovative technology that makes contaminated groundwater more suitable for remediation. The testing has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of its Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation program.

Under the approved work plan, the company will test the Cool-Ox[™] In-Situ Chemical Oxidation Technology on two contaminated groundwater aquifers located near Xcel Energy's Service Center on St. Claire Street. In this process, chemicals are injected into the contaminated groundwater to make it easier for final recovery and removal. This technology was selected because of its ease of application and ability to treat known contaminants in the area.

Because heavy equipment will be used during this process, it is likely that there will be some noise during working hours. Work will begin after 7 a.m. and be completed by 7 p.m. each day. The project is scheduled to last six weeks.

A report will be prepared analyzing the applicability of this technology on contaminated materials at the Ashland Lakefront Site. If successful, this innovative technology could significantly reduce the amount of time and cost of clean up.